

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 /026 W

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R 071548Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5175

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 2322

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, AR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: U.S./GOA BILATERAL TALKS

REF: STATE 05858

1. AS WILL BE RECALLED, PRIOR TO ARGENTINE POLITICAL SITUATION LEADING TO MARCH 24 COUP, IT WAS PLANNED THAT SECOND ROUND OF CURRENT U.S./GOA TALKS WOULD TAKE PLACE EARLY THIS MONTH IN BUENOS AIRES. IN CONVERSATIONS AT BEGINNING MARCH WITH THEN CHIEF OF DNTAC GENERAL GONZALEZ, GONZALEZ HAD SUGGESTED POST-PONEMENT OF TALKS UNTIL END OF APRIL. EMBASSY TOOK NO FURTHER INITIATION WITH RESPECT TO TALKS SINCE IT WAS CLEAR NO CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS COULD HAVE TAKEN PLACE BECAUSE OF DISARRAY PRIOR TO COUP WITHIN GOA AND TRANSPORT MINISTRY.

2. FOLLOWING REMOVAL OF GONZALEZ AFTER COUP, EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT RETIRED COMODORO (AIR FORCE CORONEL) HORACIO H. LARGHI IS EXPECTED TO BECOME DIRECTOR OF DNTAC. LARGHI HAS NOT TAKEN OVER OFFICIALLY YET, WE ARE TOLD BY DNTAC, BUT IS EFFECTIVELY IN CHARGE. HE HAS INDICATED TO U.S. CARRIER REPS HIS DESIRE TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH EMBASSY SOON AS HIS APPOINTMENT DEFINITIVE. FURTHERMORE, THAT HE IS INTERESTED IN RESUMING US/GOA TALKS AS SOON AS FEASIBLE.

3. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING WHETHER U.S. CIVAIR NEGOTIATING SCHEDULE WOULD PERMIT SECOND ROUND OF TALKS IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BUENOS AIRES IN NEAR FUTURE, AS WELL AS DEPT'S VIEWS ON

TIMING OR OTHER ASPECTS OF RESUMPTION TALKS.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS IMPRESSION THAT JUNTA GOVT MAY PROVE EASIER TO DEAL WITH ON SPECIFIC CIVIL AIR PROBLEMS, BUT WE HAVE SO FAR NO REASON TO THINK THAT GENERAL AIR TRANSPORT POLICIES AND PHILOSOPHY - WHICH AIR FORCE HAS ALWAYS TENDED TO DOMINATE - ARE LIKELY TO CHANGE. WITH A MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN POWER THERE IS RENEWED POSSIBILITY THAT DNTAC FUNCTIONS WILL BE MOVED FROM TRANSPORT MINISTRY INTO AIR FORCE. GONZALEZ IMPLIED AS MUCH DURING LAST CONVERSATION WITH HIM. AIR FORCE HAS WANTED TO HAVE CIVIL AIR POLICY BACK UNDER ITS WING FOR SOME YEARS AND WE UNDERSTAND DISCUSSIONS ARE TAKING PLACE WITHIN THE AIR FORCE AND WITH THE TRANSPORT MINISTRY. WILL REPORT ANY DEVELOPMENTS AND POSSIBLE EFFECTS ON BILATERAL TALKS.

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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